

There few items are enough, to enable women in rural or emergency situations to deliver their babies in safe and sterile conditions. These kits cost just \$1.25, but their value is priceless. In some cases, these simple tools mean the difference between life and death.

The language in this bill says that a non-governmental organization that receives US AID family planning funds cannot use it own funds to provide legal abortion services or to lobby for or against abortions. This language restricts the use of a foreign NGO's own funds.

In America, this language is unconstitutional.

Around the world, it's unconscionable.

The Gag Rule is enough to make you gag. It cripples foreign NGO's ability to practice democracy in their own countries.

It cripples NGO's in countries like El Salvador, where abortion is illegal even if a woman will die as a result of the pregnancy.

The Gag Rule bars NGO's from even writing a letter to legislators supporting changes in laws to save women's lives.

Many opponents of international family planning like to refer to China's one child policy as a reason not to support programs in China.

But with the Gag Rule, not only will women and families not get the contraception and resources they need to plan their families, but NGO's will be silenced from lobbying their own government to change abortion laws.

International family planning is about the rights of women and men to decide freely the size of their families whether it be in India, Ecuador or China.

The United States has always been dedicated to exporting the very best of our country, from our ideas of freedom and democracy to products that help make life better.

Unfortunately, this bill exports one of the worst, if not the worst, of our country—our internal politics.

There is a terrible irony in all this. In the name of preventing abortion, this policy actually works to increases abortions.

Last year alone, with the Gag Rule in place, thousands of young women lacking information to prevent or postpone pregnancy underwent dangerous and often fatal abortions.

However, with US family planning funds at the President request, 2.2 million abortions can be prevented.

We can't afford to stifle the international debate on family planning by tying the hands of NGO's with an anti-women Gag Rule.

It forces NGO's to choose between their democratic rights to organize and determine what is best in their own countries and desperately needed resources of US family planning dollars.

This is not a choice we should be forcing on the poorest of nations who are often the ones with struggling democracies. Let's support this women of the world and provide the resources for them to make informed decisions, instead of exporting unconstitutional policies.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and strike the onerous, anti-democratic Gag Rule.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, rigid ideological dogmatic rhetoric always turns logic on its head and always brutalizes the truth.

Let me describe reality outside of the realm of such dogmatic rhetoric. In

March of this year, I traveled to India and to Bangladesh, and in those countries, I visited family planning clinics; and let me tell my colleagues what I saw.

We went to India, New Delhi, to one of the most terrifyingly brutal areas of poverty I have ever witnessed, down dirty roads filled with dung, poor children with their hands out, starvation, disease, flies everywhere, into a little brick clinic. In that clinic I saw impoverished Indian women on their knees getting a lecture about how to use family planning services.

Sometimes women in this neighborhood come to this clinic in search of an abortion. Why do they do that? They are not pregnant because of irresponsible sexual conduct. They are pregnant by their husbands, and they are there sometimes desperate for an abortion because they have already more children than they can feed, and they tire of watching their children starve to death.

Abortion is not their first choice; it is their last choice. In my vision, when those women, as the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. JOHNSON) said, come in such desperate straits to that clinic, I want American dollars, small amounts of American dollars to be used there to say to that woman, you have had several abortions, there is a better way. We have family planning services available to you, so you need not again become pregnant when you cannot feed the children at your breast as it is, and your body suffers from hemorrhaging because you have had too many pregnancies too closely spaced together.

The impact of the language that we are trying to strike is to make this situation worse, because the President will exercise the waive, and \$12.5 million that could have been spent for family planning to prevent the 1,600 women from dying every hour, to prevent the millions of children from starving around the world, to prevent the millions of abortions that happen for lack of these services. Some of that money will be cut, and women in places like India and Bangladesh and around the world will not get these services, and some of them will die. Many of them will have abortions, and many of them will give birth to children who will starve to death. That is the result of what is happening on the floor today.

It is unconscionable, and it happens every time Members of Congress try to impose their own personal religious beliefs on the women of the world. It is wrong, and it is un-American; and it should not stand.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK).

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment that would allow up to \$1.3 billion to subsidize international abortion clinics,

and it would also undermine foreign countries' laws on abortion.

Congress has repeatedly banned the use of funds, taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions within our own borders, except when the life of the mother is endangered or in cases of rape and incest.

Money is fungible. Any organization that is involved in international family planning efforts and performs abortions and lobbies to increase legal access to abortion on demand should not receive taxpayer dollars.

To these organizations, abortion is a form of birth control. Mr. Chairman, abortion is not a method of birth control. Once a baby is conceived, instead of asking taxpayers to fund an abortion, we should focus our efforts on making sure that the child survives.

At the Beijing +5 conference held last month, the international community made a clear statement that abortion on demand is not a universal goal. The United States should not be funding efforts to change the abortion laws in other countries.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), a distinguished leader on women's health.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, I have been appalled time and time again by the audacity of antichoice legislators to restrict women's reproductive options in the United States and worldwide. This annual right of, quote, "we will show the women who is boss," end quote, legislation has allowed millions of women to die in the Third World.

Mr. Chairman, we stand here every year; and we say 600,000 women die every year, and nobody bats an eyelash. Do not tell me that a poll of people in the United States would approve of that. If the question asked on that poll is would you like the international family planning law of the United States to allow 600,000 women to die, we would get a far different answer.

The problem is that the harshest lesson that people learn about us is that we will allow them to die. Nothing else that we do in foreign aid, nothing else purposefully allows women to die.

The truth of the matter is we will never hear a word here about the woman herself, because mothers do not matter. The children that she leaves motherless at home, they do not matter. The fact that there are unsanitary conditions in which they live do not matter. What matters is the policy and beliefs of some Members of this House, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the motion to strike.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).